

NEWS STATEMENT BY SEN. STROM THURMOND (D-SC), SEPT. 22, 1955,
ON SPEECH TO RICHLAND LEGION POST, COLUMBIA, S. C.

COLUMBIA, Sept. 22--Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC) told members of the Richland County American Legion Post tonight that the Reserve Act of 1955 should enable the Armed Services to go forward and give the country a "first-class reserve-- something we have never had in all our history."

The South Carolina Democrat said the law might have been improved, but he praised the act as a "practical, workable law-- the best we could get Congress to pass."

"If the law is administered properly," he pointed out, "we should have a strong combat-ready reserve, which is so essential to the protection and survival of the United States in this critical period of history. Also, a large reserve force will give us the best and most economical defense for our tax dollars."

Thurmond spoke briefly on the 5-million dollar appropriation approved this year for construction of a new permanent-type hospital at Fort Jackson. He said this congressional action provided greater assurance that Fort Jackson will be maintained permanently as a major training center for the Army. Thurmond and Congressmen Riley and Rivers played a prominent part in gaining passage of the appropriation.

In addition, the write-in Senator reviewed the list of veterans legislation passed during the 1st Session of the 84th Congress. He placed particular emphasis on the legislation

Original

which returned the surplus VA hospital land to Richland County. He pointed out that he asked the VA to retain the land and use it for expansion of the hospital, but the VA indicated it had no interest in the surplus land.

"Since the VA would not retain the land," he said, "then it was only proper that the land be reconveyed to the people of Richland County, the original donors."

-30-

original

-2-